



### **Saturday January 24th**

**Weather: bright sunshine all day, wind light north-westerly**

Lodmoor RSPB Reserve, 0930

From the lovely bullfinch we saw just outside the bus, to the dramatic sight of a hunting male marsh harrier at the far side of the reserve, our first visit of the weekend was an absolute delight. No rare birds were seen (although the red-phase marsh harrier may well be the only one in the UK) but we saw a huge list of interesting species including goldcrest, chiffchaff, snipe, Mediterranean gull and raven. Huge numbers of lapwings were seen along with a single dunlin.

Radipole RSPB Reserve, 1200

On arriving at this outstanding reserve we found out that the North Hide had a very special visitor - a Greenland white-fronted goose. So all plans for lunch were put on hold while we dashed up to the other end of the reserve. Well we would have dashed if we hadn't kept finding groups of bearded tits to stop and look at on the way. Eventually we got there and saw the bird, having first passed a succession of grinning birdwatchers on their way back. Not only did the goose show well but for much of the time a kingfisher could be seen in the same field of view! See Martin Cade's video at <http://youtu.be/l3rnChACrjk>

Newton's Cove, 1430

A very pleasant walk in this sheltered cove gave us a good view of a female black redstart amongst the boulders of the sea defences. A pair of chiffchaffs on the way back were very confident, attracting quite a crowd of admirers.

Portland Harbour, 1530

With only an hour or so of good light left we searched the harbour for any wintering seabirds. Everything was quite far off but through the telescopes we could clearly identify red-breasted mergansers, black-necked grebes, eider and a great northern diver. A group of dark-bellied brent geese flew in just before we left.

Portland Castle, 1600

The always-reliable black guillemot performed well yet again, giving prolonged and reasonably good telescope views.

**Sunday January 25th**

**Weather: cloudy with brief sunny intervals, wind fresh south-westerly**



*Mediterranean and black-headed gulls at Ferrybridge ©Hazel McMillan*

Portland Bill, 0900

Our second day started with a rather chilly sea-watch at the Bill during which we were pleased to see a wide range of sea-birds including gannets, kittiwakes, guillemots, razorbills, fulmars and a couple of red-throated divers. The rocky shoreline produced four purple sandpipers along with with lots of rock pipits on the cliff-tops. For a very poor video of these bird see [http://youtu.be/tyYUH5ya5\\_I](http://youtu.be/tyYUH5ya5_I)

Our visit to the Bird Observatory was uneventful but we struck lucky with the little owl in the Observatory Quarry on our second attempt.

Grove Point, 1130

The high cliffs on the easternmost point of the island gave us much closer views of fulmars, which breed here. In the Admiralty Quarries we worked hard (in very smelly conditions!) to find the hooded crow but our perseverance was finally rewarded with some excellent views.

Ferrybridge, 1300

Today's lunch-stop was fairly quiet but we did see 200 Mediterranean gulls, a few ringed plovers and a very impressive flock of 100 dunlin.

Portland Sailing Centre, 1400

Very little at all here apart from a distant view of the same three eider we saw yesterday.

Sandsfoot Castle, 1430

Several distant slavian grebes were the highlight here along with better views of yesterday's black-necked grebes and at least ten great crested grebes.

Wyke Regis, 1530

From a vantage point above the Rodwell Trail we counted no less than 24 oystercatchers and found the only lesser black-backed gull of the weekend.

Hamm Beach, 1600

The final stop on the afternoon's very exhaustive examination of Portland Harbour produced nothing new apart from a distant view of a huge great northern diver flying off into the distance.

Looking forward to the next time,

Bob

Red-throated Diver	Portland Bill
Great Northern Diver	Portland Harbour
Slavonian Grebe	Portland Harbour
Great Crested Grebe	Portland Harbour
Black-necked Grebe	Portland Harbour
Little Grebe	Lodmoor, Radipole
Fulmar	Portland Bill
Gannet	Portland Bill
Cormorant	Portland, Radipole
Shag	Portland
Little Egret	Ferrybridge, Radipole
Grey Heron	Portland Harbour, Radipole, Lodmoor
Mute Swan	Radipole, Lodmoor
Canada Goose	Radipole, Lodmoor
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	Ferrybridge, Portland Harbour
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Radipole
Grey Lag	Lodmoor
Shelduck	Radipole, Lodmoor
Teal	Radipole, Lodmoor
Mallard	Radipole, Lodmoor
Gadwall	Radipole, Lodmoor
Shoveler	Radipole, Lodmoor
Pochard	Lodmoor
Tufted Duck	Radipole, Lodmoor
Eider	Portland Harbour
Common Scoter	Portland Bill
Red-breasted Merganser	Portland Harbour
Kestrel	Portland
Buzzard	Portland
Marsh Harrier	Radipole, Lodmoor
Coot	Radipole, Lodmoor
Moorhen	Radipole, Lodmoor
Water Rail	Lodmoor
Oystercatcher	Ferrybridge, Portland Bill
Lapwing	Lodmoor
Ringed Plover	Ferrybridge
Snipe	Lodmoor
Purple Sandpiper	Portland Bill
Dunlin	Ferrybridge, Lodmoor
Turnstone	Ferrybridge, Portland Bill
Common Gull	various sites
Black-headed Gull	various sites
Mediterranean Gull	Ferrybridge, Radipole, Lodmoor
Herring Gull	various sites

Great Black-backed Gull	various sites
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Portland Harbour
Kittiwake	Portland Bill
Guillemot	Portland Bill
Black Guillemot	Portland Harbour
Razorbill	Portland Bill
Wood Pigeon	various sites
Feral Pigeon	Radipole
Stock Dove	Lodmoor
Collared Dove	Portland
Little Owl	Portland Bill
Kingfisher	Radipole
Skylark	Ferrybridge, Portland Bill
Rock Pipit	Portland Bill
Pied Wagtail	various sites
Wren	various sites
Dunnock	various sites
Robin	various sites
Black Redstart	Newton's Cove
Stonechat	Radipole
Blackbird	various sites
Song Thrush	Portland
Cetti's Warbler	Radipole (heard)
Chiffchaff	Newton's Cove
Goldcrest	Radipole, Lodmoor
Long-tailed Tit	Radipole
Bearded Tit	Radipole
Blue Tit	various sites
Great Tit	various sites
Raven	Lodmoor, Portland
Magpie	various sites
Jackdaw	various sites
Rook	Ferrybridge
Carrion Crow	various sites
Hooded Crow	Portland
Starling	various sites
House Sparrow	various sites
Goldfinch	Portland
Chaffinch	Lodmoor
Greenfinch	Lodmoor
Bullfinch	Lodmoor
Reed Bunting	Lodmoor